

UDAF BRAND INSPECTORS TO SERVE EMERY COUNTY

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food has hired two brand inspectors to serve the needs of livestock owners in Emery County.

Monroe Magnuson of Castle Dale will serve ranchers in the western area of Emery county which includes the cities of Castle Dale, Huntington and Emery. Lisa Silliman of Green River will serve in the eastern part of the county. Livestock owners needing travel papers, change of ownership documentation, or other services should contact either of these two inspectors. Magnuson can be contacted at (435) 381-2618. Silliman can be contacted at: (435) 564-8851.

State Veterinarian, Dr. Mike Marshall, offers his gratitude and thanks to the Emery County Sheriff, Lamar Guyman, for eleven years of excellent brand inspecting service performed by sheriff's deputies.

Non-Fat Dry Milk Update

Deputy Commissioner, Kyle Stephens reports the following:

- * The total amount of non-fat dry milk (NDM) allocated to Utah by the USDA is 16,003,500 pounds.
- * As of August 25, 2003, all but 197,500 pounds of product has been assigned or allocated to qualified livestock producers. This represents a total of 1,366 producers for approximately 225,000 head of cattle and 153,000 head of sheep.
- * As of August 25, the department has placed orders for 115 truckloads of NDM. This total represents 74 truckloads to 3rd Party Feed Dealers/Manufacturers and 41 loads to counties for individual producers.
- * We appreciate the local county committees and federal and state agency staff that are helping with this program. If we did not have this assistance, it would be extremely difficult, if not impossible to get this product disseminated to the producers.
- * The department anticipates continued distribution of the NDM through the fall months.
- * We have 251 truckloads remaining to be distributed.

EMPLOYEE NEWS

Ron Ivie is Regulatory Services' new **Compliance Officer**. He was previously employed at the Utah Department of Health as a General Sanitation and Safety Program Manager. **Shelley Walker** is also new to Regulatory Services. She is a **Weights and Measurers Inspector**. She previously was employed at Convergys as a Technical Support staff member. **Laura Shoemaker** has also joined Regulatory Services as a **Compliance Officer**. She comes to the department from the V.A. Regional office where she was a Program Support Assistant. **Percy Hawkes** is Animal Industry's new **Field Veterinarian**. He comes to the department from the USDA/APHIS/International Services where he was a Veterinary Medical Officer. **Linda Porter** is Plant Industry's new **Secretary**. She previously was employed as an Administrative Assistant at Dean Foods.



Weights and Measurers Manager, Brett Gurney is a member of a national team that is helping to update training methods for the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST). NIST is the U.S. agency that establishes national standards for weights and measures enforcement. Brett, and state representatives from Texas, Kansas, Pennsylvania, and Massachusetts are generating ideas and areas of concern regarding how best to train weights and measurers inspectors throughout the country.

Chemist, Mohammed Sharaf concluded the final semester of the Certified Public Manager course. He joins numerous UDAF employees who have attained their CPM certificate.

Plant Industry's Clair Allen has been elected the President of the Association of American Plant Food Control Officials.

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Utah Governor
Utah Commissioner of
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NEW VET DIAGNOSTIC LAB JOINS FRONT LINE DEFENSE FOR FOOD/ANIMAL SAFETY

To meet the expanding needs of animal and human health protection, the Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) and Utah State University (USU) announce the opening of the Central Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory in Nephi, Utah. The laboratory serves as a primary line of defense to detect and prevent the spread of animal diseases, especially those diseases that are transmissible from animals to humans.

"The new Nephi lab is an important addition in our efforts to protect animal and human health," said Utah Commissioner of Agriculture and Food, Cary G. Peterson. "It will employ highly trained individuals using the latest technology to promote homeland security and deter bioterrorism," he added.

The 5,000 square foot building replaces a similar facility in Provo that will be closing later this year. The laboratory will promote healthy animals, safe food and thus healthy people.

"It is not only concerned with medicine for food animals, but with the health and well being of companion animals such as dogs, cats and horses. It is also concerned with the health of wildlife and exotic pets such as turtles, birds and reptiles," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Michael R. Marshall.

The goal of the lab is to promote the health and well being of the animal kingdom, and thereby protect human health and safety, and quality of life.

The Lab is a partnership between the Utah Legislature, UDAF, USU, Utah Agricultural Experiment Station, and the Utah livestock industry. It will continue to be staffed primarily with veterinarians who will perform medical examinations of animals and animal remains to closely monitor animal diseases in the state.

"This partnership to create a new lab comes at an important time for Utah farmers and ranchers who face an increasingly difficult economic climate and new disease challenges at our state's borders," said Dr. Paul Rassmusen, Director, USU Agricultural Experiment Station.



(above) The state's new Central Utah Veterinary Diagnostic Laboratory held its open house in Nephi on July 21, 2003. (right) UDAF veterinarians and lab staff members stop to talk in the lab's animal receiving area.



West Nile Virus protection campaign is stepped up following its confirmation in two horses August 15, 2003.



WEST NILE VIRUS CONFIRMED IN 2 HORSES IN EASTERN UTAH

Tests conducted on two horses in eastern Utah have confirmed that the animals are infected with West Nile Virus (WNV). The horses are located in Uintah and Emery Counties. The test results come on the same day that the National Veterinary Services Laboratory in Ames, Iowa confirmed the presence of WNV in two sentinel chickens located in Carbon County. Also, two pools of mosquitoes from Utah and Uintah counties have tested positive for WNV.

The Utah Department of Agriculture and Food (UDAF) is strongly advising horse owners throughout the state to continue to protect their animals by vaccinating them for the West Nile Virus if they haven't done so already. The UDAF also advises all Utahns to take necessary precautions to protect themselves from WNV.

The UDAF has been advising horse owners to administer two vaccination shots this past spring. It is now advisable to administer a booster shot for added protection. The WNV vaccine is available from local veterinarians. WNV is not transmissible from horses to humans.

No human, or other animal cases of West Nile Virus have been reported by the Utah Department of Health or Department of Agriculture and Food.

"Until this point, Utah was one of only four states without the West Nile Virus," said State Veterinarian, Dr. Michael R. Marshall. "We knew it was just a matter of time before the virus arrived in the state, and we have been using this time to inform horse owners and the general public about ways to protect themselves and prevent the spread of the disease," he added.

The most common sign of West Nile virus in horses is weakness, usually in the hindquarters. Weakness may be indicated by a widened stance, stumbling, leaning to one side and toe dragging. In extreme cases, paralysis may follow. Fever is sometimes evident, as are depression and fearfulness. WNV causes encephalitis and affects the central nervous system.

Horse owners who suspect West Nile viral infection of their animal should contact their veterinarian immediately. Approximately 1/3 of horses that show signs of the illness will die. For more information visit: www.ag.utah.gov/ or www.health.utah.gov/